Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application:

Listing of Claims

1. (**Original**) A polyvalent multimeric complex comprising a plurality of pRNA chimeras, at least one pRNA chimera comprising (a) a pRNA region and (b) a spacer region comprising a biologically active RNA, the spacer region covalently linked at its 5' and 3' ends to the pRNA region.

2. (**Original**) The polyvalent multimeric complex of claim 1 wherein the biologically active RNA is selected from the group consisting of a ribozyme, a siRNA, an RNA aptamer, an antisense RNA and a peptide nucleic acid (PNA).

3. (**Original**) The polyvalent multimeric complex of claim 1 wherein the RNA aptamer binds a cell surface receptor.

4. (**Original**) The polyvalent multimeric complex of claim 1 wherein the RNA aptamer binds an endosomal disruption agent.

5. (**Original**) The polyvalent multimeric complex of claim 1 wherein the RNA aptamer binds to a virus.

6. (**Original**) The polyvalent multimeric complex of claim 5 wherein the virus is an adenovirus.

7. (**Original**) The polyvalent multimeric complex of claim 5 wherein the virus comprises a polynucleotide that operably encodes a therapeutic agent.

8. (**Original**) The polyvalent multimeric complex of claim 1 comprising a pRNA chimera comprising an RNA aptamer the binds a cell surface receptor; a pRNA chimera comprising an RNA aptamer that binds an endosomal disruption agent; and a pRNA chimera comprising a therapeutic RNA.

9. (**Currently Amended**) The polyvalent multimeric complex of claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ wherein the spacer regions comprise the same or different biologically active RNAs.

10. (**Currently Amended**) The polyvalent multimeric complex of claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ which is a dimer, a trimer or a hexamer.

11. (**Original**) A polyvalent multimeric complex comprising a plurality of pRNA chimeras, each pRNA chimera comprising (a) a pRNA region and (b) a spacer region comprising a biologically active moiety.

12. (**Original**) The polyvalent multimeric complex of claim 11 wherein at least one of the pRNA chimeras comprises a RNA aptamer bound to the biologically active moiety.

13. (**Original**) The polyvalent multimeric complex of claim 12 wherein the biologically active moiety bound to the RNA aptamer is not an RNA molecule.

14. (**Original**) The polyvalent multimeric complex of claim 13 wherein the biologically active moiety is a peptide, a protein, a nucleic acid or a virus.

15. (**Original**) The polyvalent multimeric complex of claim 13 wherein the biologically active moiety is an adenovirus.

16. (**Original**) The polyvalent multimeric complex of claim 15 wherein the adenovirus comprises a polynucleotide that operably encodes a therapeutic agent.

17. (**Currently Amended**) A method for delivering a therapeutic agent to a cell comprising:

contacting the cell with the polyvalent multimeric complex of claim 1~~any of the previous claims~~, wherein a first pRNA chimera of the polyvalent multimeric complex comprises a therapeutic agent and a second pRNA chimera of the polyvalent multimeric complex comprises a biologically active moiety that specifically binds a component of the cell membrane, such that the polyvalent multimeric complex is taken up by the host cell.

18. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim ~~18~~ 17 wherein the component of the cell membrane to which the polyvalent multimeric complex binds is a receptor, and wherein the polyvalent multimeric complex is taken up by the cell via receptor-mediated endocytosis.

19. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim ~~18~~ 17 wherein a third pRNA chimera of the polyvalent multimeric complex comprises an endosomal disruption agent.

20. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim ~~18~~ 17 wherein the third pRNA chimera comprises an RNA aptamer that binds the endosomal disruption agent.

21. (**Original**) The method of claim 20 wherein the endosomal disruption agent comprises an adenovirus.

22. (**Original**) The method of claim 21 wherein the adenovirus comprises a polynucleotide operably encoding a therapeutic agent.

23. (**Currently Amended**) A method for delivering a therapeutic agent to a cell comprising:

contacting the cell with a polyvalent multimeric complex of claim 1~~any claims 1-16~~, wherein a first pRNA chimera of the polyvalent multimeric complex comprises an adenovirus comprising a polynucleotide operably encoding a therapeutic agent, and a second pRNA chimera of the polyvalent multimeric complex comprises a biologically active moiety that specifically

binds a component of the cell membrane, such that the polyvalent multimeric complex is taken up by the host cell.

24. (**Original**) The method of claim 23 wherein the component of the cell membrane to which the polyvalent multimeric complex binds is a receptor, and wherein the polyvalent multimeric complex is taken up by the cell via receptor-mediated endocytosis.

25. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim 17 ~~any of claims 17-24~~ wherein the cell is present in a cell culture, a tissue, an organ or an organism.

26. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim 17 ~~any of claims 17-25~~ wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.

27. (**Original**) The method of claim 26 wherein the cell is a human cell.